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Case 2:24-cv-05459-MWC-MAA

Federal Defendants, Plaintiffs, and Intervenor-Defendant ("Parties"), consistent with the Court's Order, ECF No. 42, have conferred on this matter and provide the following status report:

Due to the recent change in administration on January 20, 2025, there is new Department of the Interior leadership. Those new agency officials are currently in the process of onboarding and familiarizing themselves with the issues presented in this case. Because that process is still ongoing, Federal Defendants are not prepared at this time to propose additional briefing deadlines regarding voluntary remand.

To provide new leadership with sufficient time to familiarize themselves with these issues and determine how they wish to proceed, the government respectfully requests that the Court provide Federal Defendants 15 additional days to determine whether to continue pursuing a voluntary remand or take some other course of action. This will promote the efficient and orderly disposition of this case, including by ensuring that any further briefing on voluntary remand before this Court will reflect the views of current agency leadership. Plaintiffs and Intervenor-Defendant do not oppose providing Federal Defendants an addition 15 days to determine their course of action regarding voluntary remand.

The Parties therefore propose filing another joint status report addressing potential briefing deadlines regarding voluntary remand in 15 days, on February 21, 2025.

Dated: February 6, 2025

LISA L. RUSSELL
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Environment and Natural Resources Division

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